connectivity not only with roads waterways, railways, but also with airways. I will share with you some of the thoughts given by the Governors in our last meeting. The region is about 8 per cent of the area of the country and 4 per cent of the population. Today we talk of the road network. We do need them, but it will take time; the gestation period will take its time. If we have to connect Arunachal Pradesh, why can't we have a small airfield; why can't we have a small aircraft? This is a new thinking, which is emerging today so that we can connect every capital of the North-Eastern Region. It is a big surprise that the North-Eastern Region is not having a single three-star hotel today. How tourists will come over there? We have requested for it, but it did not come. I do not want to take much time of the House, because I know there is a lot of business to be transacted. But I would like to talk on this issue, because it is my love. I want to see the North-Eastern Region, in the words of Mr. Nariman, integrates with India, psychologically and physically. Today's discussion is really great. I believe that this discussion will give way for more interactions. I am proud that the NEC discussion took place today, and I would not like to go into all the details. I share the views expressed by all the Members. What the hon. Members said today would be taken as a token point for us in the next meeting of the NEC, which will be again a brainstorming session. I feel that this has greatly benefited me, particularly as the Chairman of the NEC and as the Minister concerned. I thank all of you for having participated in this discussion on the functioning of the North-Eastern Council.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up the statement by Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the first, second and third reports of the department-related parliamentary standing committee on rural development

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री (डा रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह): महोदय, मैं विभाग-संबंधित ग्रामीण विकास संबंधी संसदीय स्थाई समिति के पहले, दूसरे और तीसरे प्रतिवेदनों में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में वक्तव्य सभा पटल रखता हूं।